

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 28.6 L 12.5	H 27.3 L 10.0	H 27.8 L 14.1	H 28.3 L 12.8	H 25.9 L 08.6	H 26.2 L 11.8	H 27.7 L 11.5	H 28.2 L 09.7	H 28.5 L 15.0

Light rain/showers is likely to occur at places over Cox's Bazar & Bandarban districts weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at**

## Ship-breaker fined Tk 2cr by DoE for flouting rules

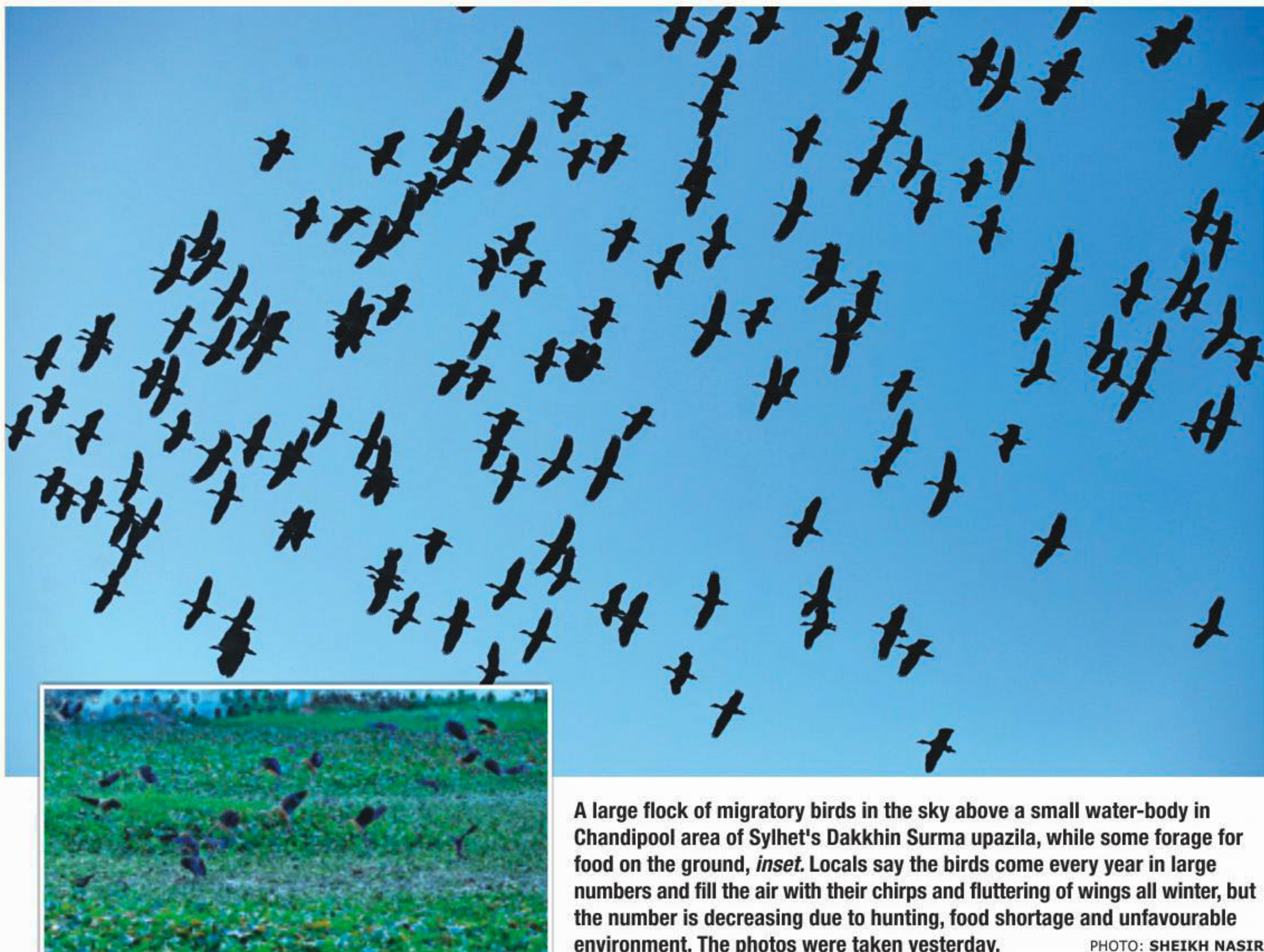
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment (DoE) in Chattogram has fined a ship-breaking company Tk 2 crore for breaking a ship - which was stranded for two years at Parki Beach of Anowara upazila in Chattogram -- without its clearance.

The company, Four Star Enterprise, was fined in a hearing at DoE Chattogram regional office on Sunday. Bodrul Huda, assistant director of DoE Chattogram region, told The Daily Star that the ship, MV Crystal Gold, got stranded during cyclone Mora two years ago.

Four Star Enterprise started dismantling the ship recently by installing fences around the ship without DoE's clearance, he said, adding that the dismantling caused major damage to flora and fauna of the beach.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



A large flock of migratory birds in the sky above a small water-body in Chandipool area of Sylhet's Dakkhin Surma upazila, while some forage for food on the ground, *inset*. Locals say the birds come every year in large numbers and fill the air with their chirps and fluttering of wings all winter, but the number is decreasing due to hunting, food shortage and unfavourable environment. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Girl found dead, hours after filing rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An 18-year-old girl was found dead in her house yesterday morning in Ashulia's Berun area, hours after she filed a case against one of her co-workers and three others for raping her.

The victim lived with her parents in a rented house in Ashulia's Jamgara area, and worked at a local garment factory.

The victim's father alleged that his daughter was returning from her workplace in Berun area around 9pm on January 5, when her co-worker Rahim and three others abducted her. They forcibly took her to an unknown place where they raped her that night.

"After my daughter was picked up, over phone they had demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom from us, saying my daughter was kidnapped," said the victim's father, adding that on that night around 2am, the girl was found unconscious by the side of the road beside their house.

"As my daughter disclosed the matter to us after gaining consciousness the next morning, we rushed to Ashulia Police Station and informed the matter to police. My daughter filed a rape case against Rahim, Ripon and Shipon and one other unnamed man on Sunday evening," said the victim's father.

"On Sunday night, my daughter was feeling unwell, and went to sleep in her room. In the morning, we found her in bed unconscious, and we took her to a local hospital, where the doctor declared her dead," he said.

Hospital sources also said the girl was brought dead.

Police later sent the body to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

TONNI MURDER IN HABIGANJ

## Lone accused given death penalty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday handed down death sentence to a youth for the 2016 murder of college student Tonni Ray in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj.

Rezaul Karim, judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal in Sylhet, delivered the verdict against the lone accused, Ranu Ray, 25, from the same upazila, said Kishor Kumar Kar, special public prosecutor.

Tonni's father Bimol Ray expressed satisfaction over the verdict, saying, "I am pleased with the verdict and hope to see the death sentence carried out as soon as possible."

According to the case statement, Tonni, 18, was murdered on

September 17, 2016.

Tonni had gone missing the same day after she went out of the house for computer lessons at a training school in the upazila. After three days of search, her body was found in a sack in a river in the area.

Her father filed the case with Nabiganj Police Station. Police arrested Ranu from Brahmanbaria on October 7 that year.

On October 8, Ranu, in a statement given under section 164 before Habiganj Judicial Magistrate Nishat Sultana, confessed to have committed the murder.

In February last year, the case was sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal in Sylhet and the tribunal recorded depositions of 20 witnesses.

CUMILLA MURDER CASE

## Khaleda's bail hearing deferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The hearing on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail petition in connection with a murder case filed for killing eight persons by arson in Cumilla, has been deferred to January 16 by a Cumilla court yesterday.

The case was filed on charges of killing eight people and injuring 25 to 26 others by torching a bus in Choudhagram upazila in February 2015.

The court also set the same date for hearing on charge-framing against Khaleda and other accused in the case.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Under-construction Sheikh Russel Eco-Park already drawing visitors

UNB, Khulna

The construction work of "Sheikh Russel Eco-Park", a project by Khulna district administration, is going on in full swing, aiming to fulfill the recreational needs of the city dwellers by creating a sanctuary for the wildlife and preserving the ecological balance of the region.

The eco-park is being constructed over 43 acres of land in Mathabhanga area of Batiaghata upazila. The work started in November 2017. Though it is still not ready for visitors, many people have started visiting the site to enjoy its beauty.

Visiting the site, this correspondent found a lake with well-decorated banks on both sides, a wooden bridge over the water-body, a floating restaurant, colourful water-

falls and a fish museum being constructed. The project, once completed, is expected to attract a large number of tourists.

The fish museum will preserve fossils of different water species and animals. In addition, a heritage museum will be set up to uphold the history of the Sundarbans, and a sanctuary for the preservation of wildlife.

A map on the biodiversity of the Sundarbans, a Unesco World Heritage site, will also be put on display in the park.

The eco-park is expected to meet the demand of the city dwellers as Khulna lacks recreational facilities, said some visitors while talking to this correspondent.

Once it is completed, visitors will also be able to enjoy the beauty of Rupsha River from the eco-park.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four-year-old Rafika Akter has been suffering from blood cancer since May 2018. She is undergoing treatment at Paediatric Hematology and Oncology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Rafika's father Rafiqul Islam, a day labourer, has already sold all his assets to meet treatment costs, but it has not been enough.

The family is seeking financial assistance from the well-off. Financial aid can be sent to Md Rafiqul Islam, Account No: 710112100001881, Meghna Bank Limited, Shathibari Branch; or bKash A/c: 01751446027.

## Justice for Felani on hold

Eight years ago, the poor Felani Khatun, a 15-year-old girl, was crossing the Indian border to come back home to Kurigram. But a bullet from Indian Border Security Force (BSF) put a stop to her life. The girl's father, Nur

Islam, who was accompanying her, had got on the other side of the border just a few minutes before. When she was on top of the barbed wire fence, she was shot. Her body kept hanging from the fence, and the photo of the scene

created furore and raised a media outcry. A special court in India tried the accused, BSF jawan Amiya Ghosh, twice. Both times, he was acquitted. Here is a chronicle of the incidents involving the killing.



The same court starts a revision trial **JULY 2, 2015**

Amiya Ghosh acquitted for a second time **JULY 26, 2015**

Indian rights body Manabdhikar

Surokha Mancha (MASUM) files a writ petition with Indian Supreme Court seeking fair investigation **OCT 25, 2017**

Indian Supreme Court decides to hear both

**JAN 7, 2011**

BSF shoots Felani dead

**JAN 7, 2011**

BSF files a case with Dinhatra Police Station in Cooch Bihar district (West Bengal) accusing constable Amiya Ghosh of murder

**AUG 13, 2013**

Trial begins at General Security Force Court in 181 BSF Battalion headquarters, prosecution represents family of victim

**SEPT 6, 2013**

Court acquits Amiya Ghosh

**SEPT 27, 2013**

Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA) Executive Director Salma Ali files a writ petition with Indian Supreme Court seeking a fair trial and compensation

**SEPT 22, 2014**

## Police find bodies of two children in Konapara house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police found bodies of two children under a bed of a house in Konapara, Dhaka yesterday night.

Victims Nusrat and Faria Akhtar Dola, both around five years old, were missing since yesterday noon, said Senior Assistant Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Demra zone, Iftekhairul Islam.

On information from locals at 9:45pm yesterday, police recovered the bodies from a rented house of one Mustafa.

Mustafa is on the run, Iftekhairul said. Police is suspecting murder and has detained Mustafa's wife, he added.

## SC upholds HC verdict on NDM's registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that directed the Election Commission (EC) to register Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) led by Bobby Hajjaj as a political party.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, passed the order, dismissing a leave-to-appeal filed by the EC challenging the HC verdict.

The EC has to register NDM as a political party in 15 days following the apex court's order, Barrister Rashna Imam, a lawyer for Bobby Hajjaj, told The Daily Star.

Following a writ petition filed by Hajjaj, the HC on October 21 last year directed the EC to register NDM as a political party within 15 days.

Later, the EC filed a leave-to-appeal with the SC challenging the verdict.

The EC on June 11 last year rejected an application to register NDM as a political party, saying that the party's constitution was not amended with due process.

But the EC did not say anything in its letter how the constitution should be amended, Barrister Rashna added.

Barrister Akhtar Imam appeared for Bobby Hajjaj, while Advocate Obaidul Rahman Mostafa represented the EC.

## 10 injured in clash over cable TV business

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 10 people were injured in a clash over the control of a cable TV business in Notunbazar area of Sreepur municipality yesterday evening.

Locals said there has been ongoing rivalry between Sirajul Islam and Haji Jamal Uddin over the control of the cable TV business. Last evening, the rival groups locked in clash with knives and sticks.

Abul Kalam Bhuyan, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station, said police rushed to the spot upon hearing of the clash and brought the situation under control.



A three-wheeler running on gas in Barishal city yesterday. A few hundred of these vehicles are on the city streets using gas cylinders meant for household use. While cylinder explosion often happens at home due to unsafe use, it is anybody's guess how risky it is for motor vehicles.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 'Gunfight between two groups' leaves one dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man, accused in 14 cases, was killed in a "shootout between two groups of criminals" yesterday evening in Chattogram.

The incident took place in Rahmatpur union of Sandwip upazila and the deceased was identified as Mohammad Yousuf alias Kala Monir, 35, said Inspector (Investigation) Abdul Halim of Sandwip Police Station.

The inspector also said the gunfight -- between two groups of accomplices of Taher alias Koitta Taher and Monir -- took place around 5:30pm on flood protection embankment in Ward 1 of Rahmatpur union, some 20 kilometres away from the police station.

"Locals heard the gunshots and informed the police about the incident. After police reached the spot, Monir's bullet-hit body was found," he said, adding that a single-barrel gun, a light gun and five cartridges were recovered from the spot.

An investigation is underway," Inspector Halim also said.

Earlier, on October 25 last year, police seized a huge cache of firearms along with firearms parts and components after busting an arms factory at Monir's house. They also arrested two individuals including his wife Hiramoni Akhtar Hira during the raid.